implementing a scheme named, An Integrated Programme for Street Children with the objective to prevent destitution and withdrawal of children from the life on street and their placement into national mainstream The programme provides for shelter, nutrition, health care, education and recreational facilities to street children, and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation The beneficiaries covered under the Programme may include rag-pickers

Besides, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has undertaken an initiatrve called Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, in an effort to universalize elementary education. The objectives of the initiative are *inter-alia* to ensure that all children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007, and eight years of elementary schooling by 2010. It covers the entire country with a special focus on educational needs of girls, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and children in difficult circumstances

Superstitions among tribals

†2134 SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that there are grave superstitions among the tribal communities of the country,

(b) if so, the details of dealth of tribal people caused due to these superstitions States-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to get these communities relieved of these superstitions?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM)· (a) and (b) It is a fact that several superstitions are prevailing among the tribal communities of the country and deaths of tribals are also reported from time to time on this account. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is, however, not maintaining any data regarding the deaths of tribal people due to superstitions.

(c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing several Schemes for promoting education amongst the Scheduled Tribes, namely, Girls/

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Boys Hostels for ST students, Ashram Schools in TSP Areas, Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students, Book Bank, Upgradation of Merit of ST students, Educational Complex, etc These Schemes also aim at creating awareness amongst the tribals about the illeffects of superstitions.

European Union funding for tribal development Projects

†2135. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tribal development Projects/Schemes funded by the European Union have been started in some States;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) the amount sanctioned by the European Union for starting these Projects/Schemes;

(d) the amount received from the European Union and the amount given to the States, specially to Jharkhand, by the Centre; and

(e) the details of the amount actually spent by each State?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs Implements Tribal Development Projects/ Schemes funded by European Union through the mechanism of 'Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme' (BDCP), for which Ministry of Finance (D/o Economic Affairs) is the nodal Ministry. No Tribal Development Projects/Schemes under the said programme has been started in any State including Jharkhand by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with the European Union (EU). However, E U. may be providing funds for some tribal welfare programmes through NGOs, of which Ministry of Tribal Affairs is not aware of

(b) to (e) Do not arise

Condition of tribal schools in Orissa

2136. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that condition of the tribal schools in Orissa is pitiable;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi